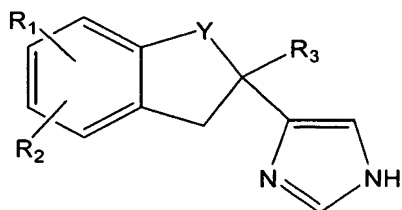


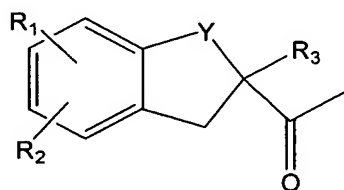
**(57) Abstract**

The invention relates to a process for preparing substituted imidazole derivatives of formula (I) and acid addition salts thereof



(I)

in which formula  $Y$  is  $-\text{CH}_2-$  or  $-\text{CO}-$ ,  $R_1$  is H, halo or hydroxy,  $R_2$  is H or halo and  $R_3$  is H or lower alkyl, starting from a compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein  $Y$ ,  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are as defined above. The invention also relates to intermediates and their preparation.